



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Rod R. Blagojevich

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16-100
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

October 4, 2004

Dear Fellow Governor:

One of the biggest threats to the health and safety of people across our country – particularly the elderly – is the escalating cost of prescription drug prices: costs that prevent patients from being able to afford the very medications their doctors prescribe.

Every day, as we wait for Washington to help solve the problem, more and more senior citizens and working families are forced to either disregard their doctors' orders or give up other necessities in order to pay for their medications.

We can't keep waiting. Many of you have already taken steps to try to help the people of your state purchase affordable prescription drugs. Here in Illinois, we launched a program today called *I-SaveRx* that allows individuals to purchase safe, affordable prescription drugs from Canada, England, Scotland and Ireland. I am honored to have the support of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, who joined me today to announce that Wisconsin is joining our new program. I would like to offer the same opportunity to each of you.

Between Illinois and Wisconsin, we are providing approximately 18 million people with access to lower-priced prescription drugs through a network of nearly 50 inspected and approved pharmacies and wholesalers in Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Through *I-SaveRx*, consumers can enjoy one-stop shopping, rather than contacting numerous pharmacies to gather information and compare prices. The new program connects users to the *I-SaveRx* clearinghouse through our website (www.I-SaveRx.net) or our toll-free telephone number (1-866-ISAVE33), where they can receive information about the medications included in the program, prices, enrollment forms, and information about how our program works.

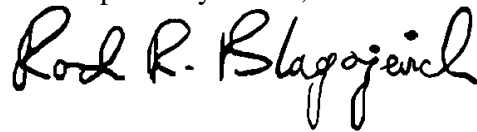
Safety was our chief concern as we developed the *I-SaveRx* program, and we built-in a number of safety mechanisms, including:

- Patients must have a doctor's prescription to receive the medication they are ordering;
- Only FDA-approved medications used for long term or chronic conditions are eligible;
- Every pharmacy dispensing prescription drugs to our consumers must meet all of our safety standards on an ongoing basis;
- Network pharmacies can only dispense prescription drugs that were intended for sale in the program countries;
- Narcotic pain medications, and medications that could spoil in transit are not included in the program;
- *I-SaveRx* reviews each patient's forms, prescriptions and health profile and conducts safety checks for drug interaction and appropriateness;
- *I-SaveRx* sends the patient's prescription to a licensed physician for further review; and
- *I-SaveRx* network pharmacists perform additional safety checks in compliance with local laws before dispensing the patient's medication. *I-SaveRx* inspects and approves all pharmacies and physicians participating in the program.

I have enclosed more detailed information about *I-SaveRx* for your review. If you have any questions or would like to obtain more information, please call Caleb Weaver at 312-814-6779.

Each of us should keep the pressure on our leaders in Washington to take action that will provide long-term relief from high drug costs for all Americans. But in the meantime, I hope you will join me in making safe, affordable prescription drugs available to the people of your state at more affordable prices through *I-SaveRx*.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod R. Blagojevich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois